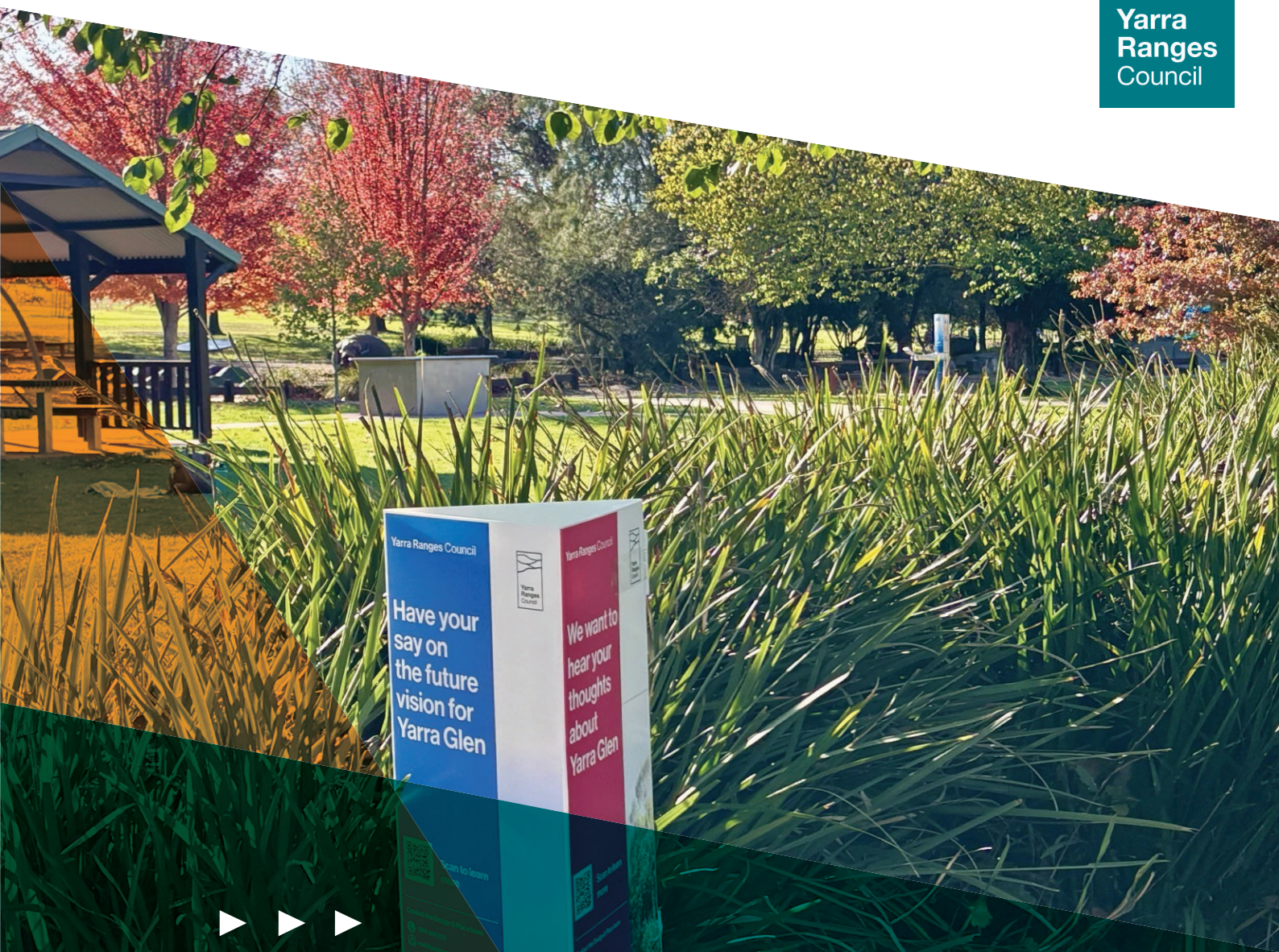




Yarra Glen Place Plan

Engagement and Directions Paper
January 2026

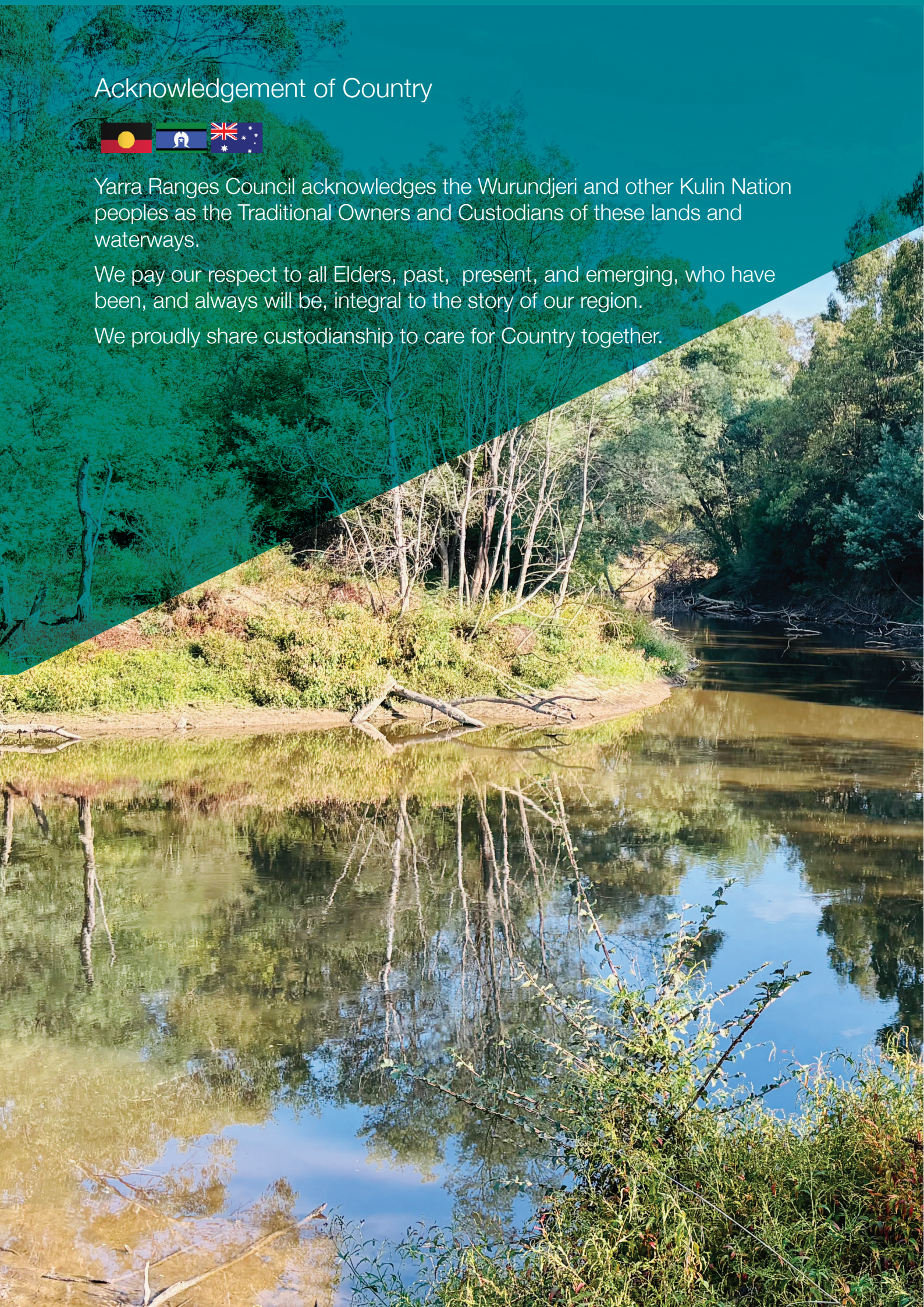
Acknowledgement of Country



Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and other Kulin Nation peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of these lands and waterways.

We pay our respect to all Elders, past, present, and emerging, who have been, and always will be, integral to the story of our region.

We proudly share custodianship to care for Country together.



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This document and associated documents are available on our website.

Hard copies are available on request at any of our five Community Links. To request a copy, email or phone our Customer Service Centre using the details below:

yarraranges.vic.gov.au

mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 368 333

What is place planning?

Council will work with community to establish the strategic direction for a place. The vision and actions will steer future investment and decision making.

Place planning is a collaborative, long-term approach to building thriving communities delivered in a defined geographic location. This approach is characterised by developing a shared vision, stewardship, and accountability for outcomes and impacts.

While place-based approaches in planning have been used by local governments in Australia to address urban renewal or town centre revitalisation, they have not previously been widely used as a whole-of-Council approach to planning for communities.

Yarra Ranges Council is proud to be shifting the focus of place planning from outputs of various departments to outcomes delivering on quality-of-life improvements for communities. Community is central to the development and delivery of a place plan so that issues can be pursued in a more collaborative way to identify economic, social and environmental priorities.

Council will work with the community to develop a shared vision and identify an action plan to address the issues and opportunities, providing a road map for future project development and enabling advocacy for future funding and investment.



Through meaningful community engagement and rigorous research Place Plans establish Council's strategic intent for a place over 20 years or more, based on five overarching principles.



PRINCIPLE A: Culture, community & service needs

A

What is the current population telling us about this township?

Appropriate policies, support services and resources are based on a clear understanding of the community's aspirations, needs and culture.



PRINCIPLE B: Economic prosperity & wellbeing

B

How can we improve resilience and help a township flourish through changes occurring on a global scale?

Collaborations and partnerships are built on connections to place which creates shared value and a thriving and resilient community, delivering maximum impact for economic, physical and environmental wellbeing.



PRINCIPLE C: Transport, movement, public space & infrastructure

C

How can we best use common land in our townships?

Well-structured and welcoming public spaces integrate multiple functions, such as public transport and active transport, recreation and conservation areas, vibrant and attractive streets and meeting places.



PRINCIPLE D: Future land use & development

D

How will townships in Yarra Ranges respond as Melbourne develops?

Policy, planning and investment attraction help guide development and use of private land and buildings in order to support public and social activity.



PRINCIPLE E: Leadership & governance

E

How will we sustain and manage Council and community effort?

Planning for place and making those plans a reality involves many different parties and processes. Ongoing management is required to implement actions and evaluate their effectiveness once completed.

Project Plan

Extensive community engagement will inform the Yarra Glen Place Plan. This includes interviews, advertised drop in session, pop ups, involvement in community events, workshops with community representatives, and online feedback opportunities.



Nature Play Yarra Glen Recreation Reserve

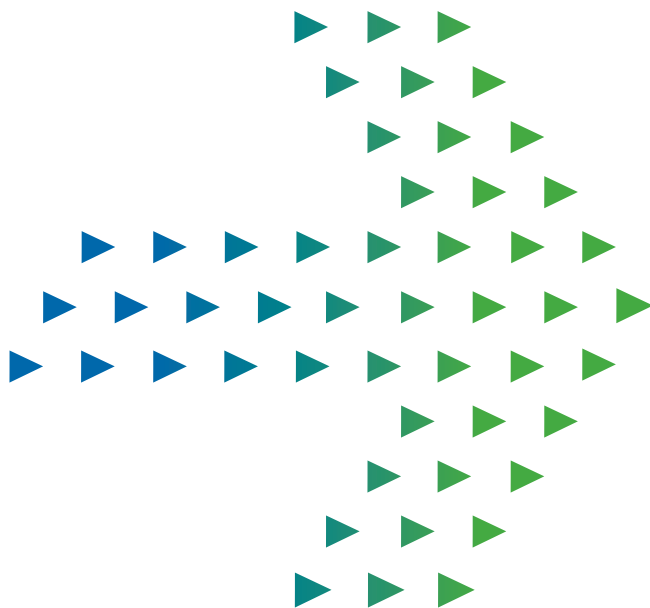
Yarra Glen Place Plan

The Yarra Glen Place Plan project aims to understand what the community love about Yarra Glen, where are the opportunities for improvement and what the future vision should strive for. This will allow community to guide the strategic direction and establish the opportunity for Council to work with community and various stakeholders in delivering improvements to Yarra Glen over time with a shared vision, guiding the delivery of infrastructure, programs and services.

Yarra Glen is a small township that provides services to the broader community including villages such as Dixons Creek, Steels Creek and Tarrawarra. Engagement with community is not only focused on the centre of the township, but also reflective of the lived experience of residents in the surrounding areas that may rely on the township for services, shopping, employment, education, or sport and recreation.

The feedback received through the initial round of community engagement will be considered along with data and background reports to identify priorities and develop Council actions in the Place Plan.

These actions will be developed in collaboration with a Community Reference Group, who will work through the key themes that have appeared in community consultation in a series of community representative workshops. It is intended that the resources, strengths, and values of community are considered during these workshops to help develop a shared vision that provides direction for both Council and community.



What we heard

The following word cloud represents the most commonly used words when people were asked what they **value about Yarra Glen**. Overwhelmingly the responses focused around **strength of community**, the **environment** and **healthy lifestyle**.

These are the things that are most important to community and need to be acknowledged and maintained over time as the town develops.



The key themes that came through community consultation when discussing opportunities and future vision include:

A  Culture, community & service needs	B  Economic prosperity	C  Transport, movement, public space & infrastructure	D  Future land use & development	E  Leadership & governance
• Community connections • Events • Services • Age in Place • Youth Activities	• Activity Centre • Tourism • Local Business • Local Industries	• Roads • Pedestrian Movement • Rail Trail • Recreation Reserve • Community Spaces • Activity Centre • Facilities • Parking	• Planning • Disused Buildings • Housing • Environment	• Council • Community

What does the data tell us

Note: The data in this report has been sourced from Profile.id using 2021 Census data, collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS conduct a national census every five years. The data provided is classified as “Yarra Glen and surrounds” and includes the localities of Dixons Creek, Steels Creek, Tarrawarra, and Yarra Glen.

POPULATION

In 2025 Yarra Glen has approximately 3,835 residents

3,835 RESIDENTS



Higher number of seniors aged 70-84

12.8% compared to 10.4% for Yarra Ranges Council

25-59
years old

HIGH LEVEL

43% of the population are between the ages of 25-59 meaning most of the population is workforce age

1.8 average number of children in families.

1.8



3.12%



There is limited growth forecast over the coming 10 years, with only 3.12% growth expected by 2046

HOUSEHOLD TYPE & INCOME

HOUSEHOLD INCOMES



23% high income, \$3,000+ per week

54% middle income, \$800 - \$2999 per week

16% low income, less than \$800 per week



36.5%

Couples with children



94% of dwellings in Yarra Glen are **separate house**, with only 6% of dwellings being medium density



Only 10% of households in Yarra Glen are **renting**

30%

OF INCOME ON

RENT OR MORTGAGE

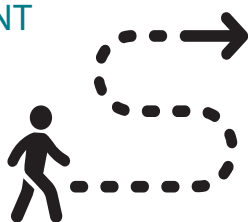


A very high level of rental stress and an extremely high level of mortgage stress, in terms of households spending more than 30% of their weekly gross income on rent or mortgage payments

PUBLIC SPACE AND COUNCIL FACILITIES

PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT

There are opportunities to improve **pedestrian movement** around the township



The Recreation Reserve, Community Pavilion and road network are often impacted by **flooding**



There are opportunities to increase **accessibility** in the activity centre

The road network and tourist attractions on the outskirts of town has led to a decline in visitors stopping in the activity centre

BYPASS



CULTURAL EXPRESSION

93% of households only **speak English**

93%

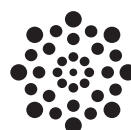


53.6%

53.6% of residents with **no religion**



82% of residents are **Australian born**



1.4% of the population identify as **Aboriginal** or **Torres Strait Islander**

JOBS, BUSINESS SECTORS AND TRAINING

TOP THREE PROFESSIONS



19%
Technicians and
Trades Workers

17%
Managers

16%
Professionals

There is a growing trend of residents achieving vocational qualifications



98%
EMPLOYED

98% of residents in the labour force age group were employed. 58% of them are employed full time

Top 3 Industry Sectors:

- Construction 18%
- Retail Trade 10%
- Manufacturing 10%



COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HEALTH

33% of the population live with at least one **long-term health condition**, which is lower than the Yarra Ranges average of 36%

33%



Most common health conditions:

- Arthritis 10%
- Asthma 9%
- Mental Health 8%



There are less people identifying as living with a **mental health** condition in Yarra Glen (8%) compared to the Yarra Ranges Shire average (10%)



TRANSPORT NETWORKS AND CAR USE

There is no secondary school in Yarra Glen, many students are dependant on bus services to take them to school in other towns



Flooding events are causing the closure of Melba Highway more often



Melba Highway has several corners that see a high frequency of accidents



The bus service is the only public transport option in the area

About Yarra Glen

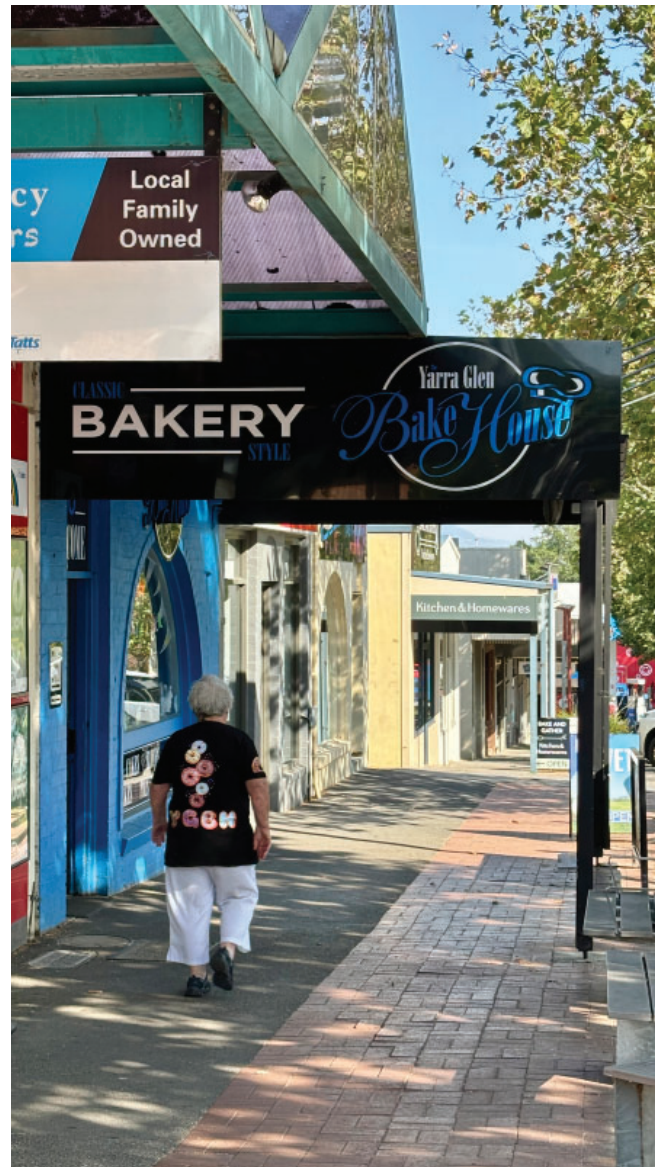
Yarra Glen is located approximately 55 kilometres north-east from the centre of Melbourne, on the lands of the Wurundjeri people. Part of the Yarra Valley region in Victoria, Australia, it has a rich history and significant regional role, particularly in agriculture and tourism.

Its history spans Indigenous occupation, early European settlement, and the growth of agricultural and tourism industries. Today, Yarra Glen is a popular destination for those seeking a taste of the Yarra Valley's unique character.

Only 15 minutes drive from the major activity centre of Lilydale, the township offers residents a seemingly isolated, semi-rural life-style within close proximity to services, education and extensive employment opportunities.

The Birrarung (Yarra River) is the most significant watercourse in Yarra Glen, it feeds into the many flood plains and billabongs found between Yarra Glen and Yering and is used for irrigation to support many industries in the area including grape growing and farming.

Surrounded by the Green Wedge, Yarra Glen is restricted in future expansion. The Housing Strategy 2024 has identified Yarra Glen for modest growth and increased diversity with smaller household types to support people ageing in place and more affordable housing for young people.



Yarra Glen Shopping Strip

Natural Environment

Yarra Glen is a township in the Yarra Valley wine region, known for its natural beauty and strong sense of community.

The region experiences a cool climate with rainfall concentrated in spring and winter, making irrigation necessary for grape growing. It's characterized by a mix of landscapes, from mountains and bushland to fertile plains supporting vineyards and farmland.

The Yarra Valley has a diverse environment, including wet Mountain Ash Forest and Cool Temperate Rainforest, with various flora and fauna.

Yarra Glen is centred in an environment of scenic rural characteristics, surrounded by rich biodiversity and extensive areas of productive agricultural land. Cradled by mountain ranges that support many areas of tall forests and a range of other ecosystems including significant billabongs that provide habitats for fauna, including many rare and threatened species such as Yarra Gum, Helmeted Honeyeater, Leadbeaters Possum and Powerful Owl.

The Birrarung (Yarra River) feeds into wetlands and billabongs as well as supporting irrigations of wineries and farms throughout the year.

Climate change is a growing concern for the Yarra Valley region, with increased severity and more regular climate related events expected, including bushfire, storm, heatwaves, drought and flooding.



Historical context

Yarra Glen is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, who have lived in the Yarra Valley for over 35,000 years. They spoke the Woi Wurrung language and left evidence of their cultural heritage throughout the region, including significant sites like the Yering Billabongs.

Before European settlement, the area's ecology supported food and material production. The Wurundjeri harvested aquatic plants and resources, set up fish, eel, and bird traps, and extracted potable water. The nearby Yarra Ranges provided additional resources such as hunting grounds, fibres, pelts, and materials for clothing and tools. They practiced sustainable land and water management.

European settlers arrived in the late 1830s, with the Ryrie brothers establishing Yering Station and planting the first vineyards.

In 1840, the "Battle of Yering" occurred between Wurundjeri clansmen and police in response to the capture of the Wurundjeri leader Jaga Jaga.

Injuries from the incident were not recorded, but it is understood that the authorities fired on the Wurundjeri men, resulting in them retreating to the nearby billabongs for protection. Drawing the troopers away from their imprisoned leader, other clansmen were able to assist in Jaga Jaga's release. A plaque has been placed at Murrup Brarn Yarra Flats Billabongs commemorating this event.

Further settlements in the area included Dixon's Creek, Steels Creek, and Gulf Station.

Gold discovery in Steels Creek in the late 1860s spurred growth, supported by the trestle bridge built over Yarra Flats in 1869 and the train line arrival in 1888. Remnants of the train line are still visible today, with works taking place for the Lilydale to Yarra Glen Rail Trail along the original train line and efforts to re-establish the Yarra Glen to Healesville link for a tourist railway.

By the 1890s, Yarra Glen's population had grown to over 450 people, with 74 residences, several churches, and a Post Office. Development continued through the early 1900's, with many heritage buildings still standing today, honouring the original township.



Yarra Valley Grand Hotel built 1888

Yarra Glen's People

Yarra Glen has approximately 3,835 residents and covers a land area of 124 km².

The population is expected to have limited growth of only 3% over the next 10 years, reaching 3,955 by 2046.

Most of the population of Yarra Glen is English speaking.

- 39.7% of the population identify as having Australian ancestry
- 46.3% of the population identify as having English ancestry
- 1.4% of the population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Yarra Glen is a multigenerational community with a median age of 44, and an equal number of males and females. Most residents are of working age, with 42.6% between 25 and 59 years old.

3.8% of the population reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. This is lower than Yarra Ranges shire, which is 5.4%.

In 2021, the Yarra Glen and Surrounds labour force included:

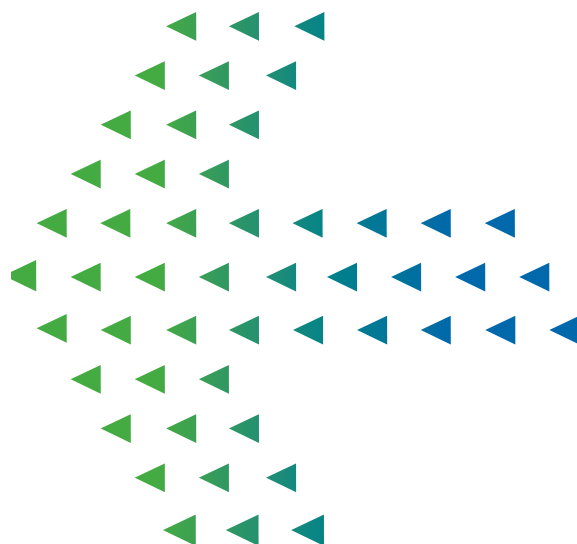
- 98% employed (1,923 people),
- 58% worked full-time
- 34% worked part-time
- 2% unemployment, which was lower than the Yarra Ranges municipal unemployment rate of 3.5%

Most of the Yarra Glen workforce are in the construction industry, which also produces the largest economic output in the area.

An analysis of the jobs held by the resident population in Yarra Glen and Surrounds in 2021 shows the three most popular industry sectors were:

- Construction (334 people or 17.8%)
- Retail Trade (196 people or 10.4%)
- Manufacturing (192 people or 10.2%)

In 2021, Yarra Glen had a youth disengagement rate of 6% for 15-24 year olds, which is lower than the 7.3% rate across the Yarra Ranges shire.



Housing

Yarra Glen has an average household size of 2.6 people. Among families, 35.5% are couples with children, and 8.5% are one-parent families.

From 2016 to 2021, the number of households increased by 107, with 94% being separate houses and only 6% medium density, showing little diversity in housing types.

There's limited land for new residential development, and a growing demand for smaller homes as people downsize. The Council's Housing Strategy 2024 aims to provide more compact, affordable housing through modest growth with the development of medium density housing types.

In Yarra Glen, 10% of households rent, 43% have a mortgage, and 40% fully own their homes. Many households face financial strain, with mortgage holders spending 34% of their income on mortgage payments and renters spending over 30% of their income on rent.

Health

Yarra Glen residents appreciate the relaxed, healthy lifestyle of their semi-rural community. About 33% of the population have at least one long-term health condition, which is lower than the Yarra Ranges average of 36%.

The most common conditions are:

- arthritis (10%),
- asthma (9%),
- mental health issues (8%)

Fewer people in Yarra Glen report mental health conditions (8%) compared to the Yarra Ranges Council average (10%).



Example of local housing

Yarra Glen's Economy

The Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme Clause 02.03 states that Yarra Ranges has a narrow economic base with a limited range of higher-level employment opportunities. Many residents travel outside the municipality for jobs and higher order services, including tertiary education and regional shopping centres. Local employment is mostly within manufacturing and retail sectors.

Yarra Glen is located in the Yarra Valley. It is surrounded by the Green Wedge Zone which contains extensive areas of productive agricultural land. While agriculture, including wineries, is a major contributor to revenue and jobs in the region, the top three industry sectors employing 38% of Yarra Glen's working residents are:

- Construction: 18%
- Retail Trade: 10%
- Manufacturing: 10%



Yarra Valley

Yarra Ranges Economic Development Strategy 2022-2032, identifies the need to play to our local strengths in regenerating our local economy, ensuring balance in protecting our environment, social well-being and economic prosperity.

The Destination Management Plan (DMP) was developed by Yarra Ranges Tourism (now Tourism East), with support from the State Government, Yarra Ranges Council and Nillumbik Shire Council. The plan seeks to ensure the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges retain their competitive advantage as a world-class tourism destination.

Overarching objectives of the DMP include:

- Drive regional economic benefit for Yarra Valley by changing visitor travel behaviour (shift to more mid-week visits and more overnight stays)
- Improve the visitor experience in the Yarra Valley
- Improve liveability of the Yarra Valley local community
- Improve support for tourism amongst the local Yarra Valley community

Key strategic priorities for the Yarra Valley include:

- Developing and leveraging new attractions and experiences - Nature, Food & Drink, First Peoples Experiences.
- Opportunities for new and emerging experiences and attractions - Wellness, Tours and Attractions, Arts Culture and Heritage.
- Infrastructure.

Who we spoke to

From May through to June 2025, the project team spent time in Yarra Glen connecting with community groups, sports clubs, service providers, organisations, local business, tourists and community.

This involved advertised drop in sessions at the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall, pop up engagement sessions at the IGA and McKenzie Reserve Playspace. Visits to club and group events, junior football training, and meeting with local business owners. We heard about what people value about Yarra Glen, where there are opportunities for improvement and what should be the priorities for the future.

How did people hear about the project?

-  2,404 people registered with interest in Yarra Glen received an email notification regarding the project's Shaping Page.
-  1,456 visitor views of the project Shaping Page.
-  6 weeks of social media for the project promoting ways to engage.
-  Pop up engagement events were held in public spaces such as the IGA and McKenzie's Reserve Playspace.
-  Advertised engagement sessions were held at the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall.
-  Main Street Businesses were approached for interviews and asked to promote the project with flyers in their shops.
-  Flyers were displayed on Community Noticeboards across town.
-  Signage promoting the project was displayed around the activity centre, community buildings and recreation facilities.

How did people give feedback?

-  203 people provided feedback through face-to-face interviews.
-  52 contributions were received through the project's Shaping Page.
-  493 community votes were made on the project's Shaping Page.
-  7 detailed written submissions were received from community.
-  Community groups, sports clubs, businesses, service providers and organisation contributed through interviews and engagement sessions.
-  Roving interviews at the Yarra Glen Market.
-  Community representatives collaborated with Council officers in a series of Community Workshops.

What we heard



PRINCIPLE A: Culture, community & service needs

A

The community of Yarra Glen have told us:

Community Connections

- Local clubs and groups are highly valued by community.
- Local businesses are great at supporting local clubs.
- Some would like to see more diversity in activities available in town.

"I love my connections into the local sports clubs and community in general. We are a very tight community who support each other."

Community Events

- People want more community events throughout the year.
- Events in the activity centre to attract visitors to the township.
- Local farmers markets to support the local agricultural sector.
- Activate vacant shops with local artists.
- Music and entertainment on the Main Street.
- Use events and artwork to celebrate the history of the region.

"More vibrant activities in the town centre that draw activity back into the heart of town again."

Age in Place

- Diversity in housing options.
- Local services to support an aging community.
- Activities and programs.

"I find it hard to maintain a large house and garden now, but there aren't many options for me unless I move away and I don't want that."

Young People

- Diversity in activities for young people.
- Some young people need more local support services around them.

"There isn't any youth activities for kids that don't do competitive sport"

Support Services

- Many in Yarra Glen are comfortable with travelling to the Urban Area for specialist services.
- Some in Yarra Glen do not have access to reliable transport to travel to specialist services.
- Many would like to see emergency medical services in the Yarra Valley area.
- More services are needed locally to support young families

"More flexible services accessible to families."

What we heard



PRINCIPLE B: Economic prosperity & wellbeing

B

The community of Yarra Glen have told us:

Activity Centre

- People would like a more vibrant town centre.
- Would like positive activation of the many empty shops.
- There is desire to see more diversity in the types of shops and hospitality options.

"The main street is a bit dull, needs something to lift the vibe. I'd like to see a vibrant town, with a mixture of retailers to draw people into town."

Local Industries

- The community highly value living in a scenic agricultural setting.
- The region has many high quality local producers.
- There are many pressures effecting the local agriculture industry.
- There are concerns about the long term regional impacts of a declining agriculture industry.

"The Yarra Valley is known for its views and idyllic vistas. Farms provide this aspect and carry the cost of maintaining it."

Tourism

- Increase tourism visitation by providing infrastructure that encourages people to spend more time in town.
- Increase tourist attractions and entertainment in the activity centre.

"I would like to see the Healesville train reach Yarra Glen."

Local Business

- More activity and continuity in the activity centre.
- Establish Yarra Glen's identity as a unique and thriving destination.
- Local businesses should work together.
- The town needs to continue to service the local community as well as attract visitors so that local businesses can really thrive.

"Lets get a campaign going to promote YG's strengths and set us up as a destination to visit."

What we heard



PRINCIPLE C: Transport, movement, public spaces & infrastructure

C

The community of Yarra Glen have told us:

Roads

- There is a lot of concern about safety and flooding issues on Melba Highway.
- There is opportunity to improve safety and functionality of the round about at the entry to town.
- Concerns about the speed of traffic on back streets.
- Opportunity to improve the maintenance of local unsealed roads.

"I have trouble when there is flooding. I work in Lilydale and if the road floods then I am separated from my kids. I can drive around through Healesville but that adds 40 minutes to my trip and if my kids are waiting it is very stressful."

Rail Trail

- Council should prioritise finishing the trail from Lilydale to Yarra Glen.

*"Finish the Rail Trail
- this is a must do!"*

Parking

- The current parking provision in the activity centre could be better utilised.
- Wayfinding signage may support more people in finding parking behind the shops.
- Improved lighting and accessibility for parking around community infrastructure.
- Designated caravan parking spaces close to the activity centre.

"I like to have a connected & accessible town, walkable to all locations."

Transport

- There is opportunity to improve the local bus network and infrastructure.

"We need more bus stops in town, I'd like one in Yarra Street as it is too far for me to walk to the shopping centre."

What we heard



PRINCIPLE C: Transport, movement, public spaces & infrastructure

C

The community of Yarra Glen have told us:

Pedestrian Movement

- There are a lot of suggestions on how to improve pedestrian movement and safety.
- There is a desire to see infrastructure improvements that increase the walkability of the township.
- Signage to help visitors around the town.
- Lighting to increase safety.

"Needs better pedestrian connections and circulation around the lake and across the Melba Highway from the playground."

Community Facilities

- There is opportunity to improve accessibility at our community facilities.
- McKenzie Reserve is highly valued.
- Community would like better lighting around community facilities.
- There is great concern about flooding of major infrastructure at the Recreation Reserve.
- Formalise the dog off lead area.
- The river is highly valued, community would like better access while ensuring its ongoing protection.

"The playground is great, it caters for different ages, we meet friends here all the time."

Activity Centre

- Revitalise the activity centre with a fresh streetscape.
- Positive activation of public spaces.

"Create an outdoor space for live music, a village square atmosphere with shelter for performers."

Yarra Glen Central - Wetlands

- Would like shelters, artwork, seating and accessible walking paths around the wetlands and public spaces at Yarra Glen Central.
- Formalise the walking trail through the wetlands to connect the Showgrounds to the activity centre.

"Could the pathway through the wetlands be better maintained and maybe commission some artworks around this space?."

"The footy club has flooded three times, stop replacing the carpet and build a new club room."

What we heard



PRINCIPLE D: Future land use & development

D

The community of Yarra Glen have told us:

Planning

- People value the regional appeal of the township.
- Community would like to see controlled development.
- Desire to develop a consistent aesthetic, particularly in the activity centre.

"Keep the small town feel, don't over develop."

Environment

- Community highly value the local environment.
- Community enjoy views of local farmlands and vineyards.
- There is desire to have better access to local waterways whilst ensuring their protection.

"Clean up the weeds from the Yarra and give us better access like Warrandyte."

Housing

- People would like to see more housing diversity, providing options for young families and the aging population.
- There is concern about the lack of long term rentals in the area.
- Lack of affordable rental stock makes it more difficult for local businesses to attract seasonal workers.

"There are a lot of young families in town and cost of living makes it so hard for them."

Abandoned Buildings

- Community are concerned about the amount of disused buildings in the activity centre.
- Community would like to see Council encouraging building owners to activate empty buildings.

"Too many vacant buildings in the main street, it looks terrible and scares away new businesses."

What we heard



PRINCIPLE E: Leadership & governance

E

The community of Yarra Glen have told us:

Council

- Community would like to see a stronger Council presence in town.
- There is opportunity for Council to better support community organisations.

“The grant process is difficult and sometimes overwhelming for volunteers to navigate.”

Community

- There is great pride in this connected community.
- They would like to see more community events bringing everyone together.

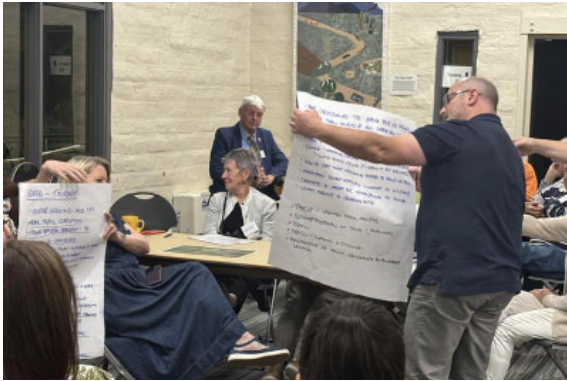
“What about a township group to organise events and improve community spaces.”

Business

- Community appreciate the support local businesses give to local sports clubs.
- There is opportunity for local businesses to work together to build Yarra Glen's profile as a destination.

“I'd like to see businesses working together for events that attract more visitors like late night Christmas shopping.”

Community Workshops



Community members were invited to join Council officers in a series of workshops held at the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall, throughout October 2025.

The workshops provided an opportunity to explore the key priorities identified through the initial round of community engagement and to shape these into a shared Vision and Action Plan for Yarra Glen.

A total of 30 community representatives participated in the workshops. Attendees shared a broad experience of Yarra Glen, with representatives from clubs and groups, service providers, local businesses, parents, seniors, students, carers and residents. Some having lived in the area for multiple generations and some being new to the region.



Using an Asset Based Community Development approach, each workshop focused on a range of key themes, with Council officers and guest speakers in attendance to support discussion and provide detailed information.



Participants were also provided with summary reports outlining feedback from the first round of engagement, along with relevant background material, to support informed and meaningful discussion.

The workshops resulted in Council and the community collaboratively developing a shared Vision and a draft Action Plan, directly informed by the priorities identified through the initial phase of broad community engagement.



Following the workshops, the draft Action Plan was reviewed and refined internally to ensure it is achievable, appropriately resourced, and aligned with Council's broader strategic objectives.

We have also seen the continued interest of community representatives to work towards community driven initiatives that align with the Plan's vision, with the first steps being taken to develop a township group for Yarra Glen.

Workshop Outcomes

Through the workshops, community representatives worked with Council officers to develop the basis for a shared Vision and Action Plan. The key areas of the Action Plan are outlined below, and will be presented in detail in the Draft Yarra Glen Place Plan.

Priority 1: Culture And Community

- Community Connections
- Community Needs

Priority 2: Developing Place

- Township Design Framework
- Community Facilities and Infrastructure
- Planning and Development

Priority 3: Movement and Place

- Roads and Pedestrian Movement
- Local Transport
- Parking

Priority 4: Economic Prosperity

- Revitalisation and Economic Development
- Tourism

Priority 5: Partnerships

- Emergency Resilience
- Protection of the Environment
- Support Services

Glossary

Accessibility – The ease of reaching destinations. Highly accessible locations, enable a person, regardless of age, ability or income, to reach many activities or destinations quickly. People in places with low accessibility can reach fewer places in the same amount of time.

Activity centre – Activity centres are a focus for services, shopping, employment and social interaction. They are where people meet, relax, work and often live. Usually well-served by public transport, they range in size and mix of uses from local strip shopping centres to traditional town centres and major regional centres.

Aesthetic – Aesthetics refers to the way we perceive, assess and feel about towns and cities. This can include the buildings, the use of space, the overall population density. Aesthetics includes both the appearance (beauty) and the functionality (accessibility, services, etc.).

Affordable housing – Housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of low to moderate income households, and priced so these households are able to meet their other essential basic living costs.

Collaboration – The action of working together to achieve something.

Community infrastructure – Infrastructure provided in the public domain for community use, which is generally maintained by Council. This could range from facilities or parks through to park benches and bins.

Governance – The system by which something is controlled or operates, and the way in which authorities or people are responsible for something.

Land use – The purpose for which the land has been or is being or may be developed. The activity on the land.

Stewardship – The job of supervising or taking care of something, in the context of Place Planning this may include working towards a shared vision established to achieve a thriving community.

Subdivision – The act of subdivision means the division of a land parcel into two or more parts. It is also a term used for the resulting pattern of blocks and lots, and streets.

Vision – Is a statement defining the future priorities for a township or place, it should be aspirational yet realistic. The vision sets a direction, outlining goals and priorities to be worked towards over time.

Priorities – The things that are regarded as the most important.

Quality-of-life – A perception or measure of a community's wellbeing in the context of the place that they live.

Walkability – Walking environments that best balance safety, connection, accessibility and enjoyment.

Youth disengagement – refers to young people not actively participating in key areas of life—especially education, employment, or community activities. This may lead to challenges in their personal development and future opportunities.



